

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** ROVA

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Resources significant to the parks' purposes are protected and preserved, with cultural and natural resources maintained in good condition and the parks' settings remaining unimpaired. The Roosevelt Home, the Val-Kill Cottages, Vanderbilt Mansion, and all other key structures throughout the parks are in good condition. Likewise, designed landscapes and river views throughout the parks are improved. Interpretive presentations and educational programs are upgraded. Visitors (actual and virtual) find interpretive materials appealing and enriching. Scholarship is facilitated to advance the understanding of the parks, guide interpretation and educational programs and explore interpretive themes from differing viewpoints. The parks attract substantial numbers of new visitors who reflect the Nation's diversity. A new maintenance facility is developed and there are sufficient staff and support facilities to manage resources and visitor programs properly and safely. Staff training and professional development are central to park operations. Partnership development is ongoing, with increased partnership involvement in preserving, protecting and operating the parks. Park staff and partners are actively engaged with each other in fulfilling this NPS Centennial vision.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Sarah Olson, Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHSs

Site: ROVA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Use livestock (goats) to control invasive Oriental Bittersweet on steep slopes and other sites where control is difficult or labor-intensive.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Manage historic forest plantations to tell visitors the story of FDR's relationship to the land and how he used his estate to demonstrate forestry practices.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Use historic forest plantations as an outdoor classroom to teach forest ecology to elementary and secondary students.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Improve the park's pollution prevention status by the following:  
1. Institute documented monthly oil storage tank inspection procedures and formalize recordkeeping.  
2. Replace non-compliant fuel transport containers with long-term storage containers.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide park staff and partners with training on emergency operations plan.  
Provide Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) training to partner groups.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Extend and improve trails and rehabilitate trail features associated with the Hyde Park Trail network, a system that links ROVA with its surrounding communities. Rehabilitation efforts will include such trail features as Hudson River access points, pedestrian bridges, important views, and ADA accessible infrastructure.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

RECREATION

☒ Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

☒ Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Expand opportunities for the Hyde Park Trail Partnership, its volunteers, and others to maintain and support public use of the Hyde Park Trail network, a system which links ROVA with its surrounding communities.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Using the successful examples of the Frederick W. Vanderbilt and Farrand garden associations, expand opportunities for volunteer organizations to maintain and support public use of ROVA's gardens and grounds. Provide technical assistance to the volunteer organizations as needed to help them maintain their capacity to provide this level of public service.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Work with the Hyde Park Trail Partnership, Historic Hyde Park, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and Hudson River Greenway among others to actively promote ROVA as a recreational resource, highlighting its interpretive and educational opportunities.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase the number of school groups that participate in curriculum based education programs.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites begins to look into the feasibility to partner with a Friends to promote, organize, develop, coordinate, and staff educational programming and materials for the sites.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish a structured training program for visitor service seasonals, beginning in 2008.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ROVA

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Model what it means to work in partnership.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Advance the development of an "alliance" of the 5 primary park partners to promote shared partner services and strengthen partner support for the parks. With support that has been expressed by a local foundation, this project has strong potential as a Centennial challenge project.

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